



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY ON HAZING

Having been a Blue Diamond Marine at various stages throughout my career, I have had numerous opportunities to reflect on the many great accomplishments of the 1st Marine Division. Throughout the years, the Marines of the Blue Diamond have fought battles in every clime and place. Today, our Marines and Sailors have continued to carry on the honor displayed by those who have come before them. They have met the challenges set forth by Recruit Training and Officer Candidate School in order to become Marines and Sailors and have completed rigorous curriculum at their respective MOS schools. With that said, our Marines and Sailors must understand that there are no rituals or activities required of them to establish themselves as members of the 1st Marine Division. Nothing can further distance a Marine or Sailor from what it means to be a part of this esteemed command than to engage in activities that are considered to be hazing.

Simply put, there is no place for hazing within our Division. Activities which cause Marines and Sailors to suffer physical harm, pain, humiliation or oppression are considered hazing and will not be tolerated. Hazing can take on many shapes and forms and significantly degrades good order and discipline within the unit. A Marine or Sailor cannot consent to being hazed and those found guilty of engaging in activities associated with hazing will be subject to disciplinary or administrative actions. I fully expect commanders to take all appropriate action to ensure hazing is not being promoted or facilitated at any level.

We demand so much of ourselves through our training and conduct that activities associated with hazing take away from the limited time we have with our high operational tempo. We will continue to focus on training that ensures we are prepared and ready to answer when our nation calls on us. Our success as the 1st Marine Division is dependent on exemplarily leadership and professionalism by all of our personnel.

Commanders shall ensure their Marines and Sailors are thoroughly educated on this policy and the Marine Corps policy on hazing in accordance with MCO 1700.28A. Also, commanders and those in supervisory roles are to ensure all events within their organization comply with this policy, and are expected to respond appropriately if hazing is discovered to have occurred within their unit. Marines and Sailors are expected to aggressively report any acts of hazing to their chain of command. Those who are aware of hazing and do not report it, will be held accountable. Ensuring the safety and welfare of our Marines and Sailors is everyone's responsibility.

As we move forward, I anticipate all Marines and Sailors of this command will continue to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. As always, we must ensure our actions foster a climate of mutual respect for one another, as well as the history and character of the Marine Corps and the 1st Marine Division. Through our enduring commitment to our fellow Marines and Sailors, I am confident we can make certain hazing does not affect our extraordinary teamwork and unit cohesion of the Blue Diamond.



L. D. NICHOLSON